



OFFICE OF THE
Advisory Board
TOWN HALL
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March 31, 2022

Present: Jim Frey, Jake Lewon, Harold Simmons, Leo Tometich, Matt Naughton; Select Board Members Leah Basbanes, Ron Mikol, Kieran Meehan; Town Administrators Brian Palaia, David Demanche

Joint Meeting with Select Board called to order 6:32 at Dunstable Town Hall

ITEM 1: Budget Discussion - Fire Department Updated Plan

Updated Fire Department budget was reviewed. Major changes from prior include staffing adjustments to ensure minimum adequate coverage (24x7) and redefinition of chief role and hours. Total department budget would increase roughly \$135k, to a total of \$368k. Members of the current firefighter staff advised that there are several options for achieving the needed staffing re-alignments. Noted that the town will be seeking to hire a new chief starting 1 July, who will be responsible for implementation of the staffing plan.

ITEM 2: GDRSD Capital Expense Request

The school district provided a list of planned capital expenditures for FY23, with Dunstable's share totaling \$188,974. Two options were discussed - to present the full request as a debt exclusion item, or to request an override to add to the existing budgetary capital allocations. It was noted that Federal funds were just recently released to GDRSD in the amount of \$106,500, specifically for the purpose of technology purchases, and this may offset some of the district's request, but remains to be confirmed.

Motion: Leo Tometich moved that the entire requested amount of \$188,974 be presented to the town for consideration as excluded debt.

2nd: Jim Frey

Vote: Yes - Frey, Tometich, Lewon, Naughton; Abstain - Simmons; Motion passes.

ITEM 3: Review of draft Articles for Town Meeting

Draft articles for Annual Town Meeting (May 14th) that included financial impact were reviewed and discussed. The warrant will be approved on April 5 and must be finalized by April 12 in order to meet requirements for Annual Town Meeting. The public hearing must be held at least 7 days prior to town meeting.

Next Advisory Board Meeting:

- Wednesday April 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Topic: Public Hearing for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Motion to adjourn Jim Frey, 2nd Matt Naughton. Vote: Unanimous to adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm